IDIOMS AND PHRASES

An idiom is a fixed group of words with a special meaning which is different from the meanings of the individual words. It consits of two or more than two words, hence it is also a phrase. This is the reason we generally use the term 'idiom and phrase'. It is a pithy expression forming a conceptual unit but not a sentence.

- to rack your brain (= to think hard, something to do with brains)
- step in the face (= a physical blow to the face).

A

1. **abound in /with** something (to have a lot of something): The rivers here abound in/ with fish.
2. **above all** (most important of all): He is intelligent, laborious and above all, honest.
3. **a lot of** (a large number of persons or a large amount of something): A lot of people came to hear his speech.
4. **all at once** (suddenly): All at once the sky became dark and it began to rain.
5. **all the time** (during that period to show contrast): I wish he would stop smoking: he does it all the time.
6. **as if** (as it would be if something were true): I couldn't move my legs. It was as if they were stuck to the floor.
7. **ask after** (to ask for news about somebody and how they are): Did he ask after me in his letter?
8. **ask for** somebody (to say that you want to see or speak to somebody): There is an old lady at the door asking for you.
9. **ask for** something (to say that you want somebody to give you something): Radhika asked for a new dress on her birthday.
10. **associated with** (related to): Bhikshu Nagarjuna and Arya Deva were associated with Nalanda University.
11. **at a stroke** (by a single action or decision): The officer dismissed him at the stroke of his pen.

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12. **at times** (sometimes): At times, my heart cries out with longing to see all these things!
13. **at heart** (what one really feels or believes) – John appears to be rude, but at heart he is a very kind man.
14. **at the eleventh hour** (at the last moment): The mob was getting out of control but at the eleventh hour the police arrived and controlled the situation.
15. **at a stretch** (continuously, without interruption): My friend has marvellous power of concentration; he could study for ten hours at a stretch.
16. **at one's heels** (very close, near): The criminals ran away with the booty quickly because the police were at their heels.
17. **at large** (including a number of topics, people, etc. without distinction): He talked at large on the problems of mankind.

B

18. **bad blood** (unfriendly feelings): The bad blood between the neighbours makes the social life unbearable.
19. **back out of** (not to take part in something that has been agreed on): Sania Mirza backed out of the Australian Open Tournament due to her knee-injury.
20. **beat about/around the bush** (not say directly): Stop beating about the bush and tell me directly what you need.
21. **bent on/upon** (determined to do something) – He is bent on inflicting emotional injury to me.
22. **beyond measure** (in a way that can't be counted or measured): I am grateful to you beyond measure for your help.
23. **black and blue** (full of bruises): He lost his temper and beat his son black and blue.
24. **bone of contention** (thing which causes people to quarrel): Kashmir has been a bone of contention between India and Pakistan for years.
25. **break the ice** (to overcome the first shyness in a new situation): He broke the ice by inviting his new neighbour to dinner. .
26 **bring home to (someone)** (to prove something to someone in a way to make him believe): The sudden epidemic brought it home to the people the need of keeping the surroundings clean.
27. **by and by** (after a short time): By and by everyone left the place.
(soon): She will get better by and by.

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C

28. **catch one's breath** (be so frightened/ amazed that one stops breathing for a few moments): The spectators caught their breath when the magician cut the baby into two pieces.
29. **carry on** (to have a long affair with): She has been carrying on with a young man for years.
30. **crack a joke** (to make a funny remark): The comedian in the concert went on cracking jokes.
31. **cock and bull story** (unbelievable story): As an excuse for being late, he told some cock and bull story.
32. **cold fish** (person who doesn't show much feeling or emotion) – I dislike the company of Mohan; he is a bit of a cold fish.
33. **come to light** (be discovered, made known esp. crime): The conspiracy that he hatched didn't come to light for many years.
34. **cup of tea** (the sort of thing or person one likes): I have never acted in films; it is not my cup of tea.
35. **cut and dried** (very clear and definite): I am not keeping any thing secret; the whole thing is cut and dried.
36. **cut short** (stop, put an end to): He cut his speech short because there was no time left.

D

37. **a dark horse** (a person about whose abilities little is known): No one could guess what his potential was; he turned out to be a dark horse.
38. **keep it dark** (to keep (something) secret): They have planned for future but they want to keep it dark.
39. **dawn on** (to become suddenly clear to (someone): Realisation that he should work hard dawned on him.
40. **die hard** (to take a long time to disappear): Old habits die hard.
41. **dawn the drain** (completely wasted): We had to reject everything and start again - six months' work going down the drain.
42. **drop by** (to visit someone casually and without being invited): I will drop by on my way home, if time permits.
43. **do away with**: (to cause to amend, abolish): The management dare not do away with free school meals.
44. **drop out** (to leave school or college without completing the course): He dropped out in the second year without completing his management course.

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E

45. **even so** (in spite of that): Ravi had been very ungrateful. Even so, Ranjan forgave him.
46. **every dog has his/its day**: (every unfortunate man eventually has his time of happiness or glory): After several failures John ultimately got success; every dog has his day.
47. **enough is enough** (to show that one will not endure any unsatisfactory situation any more): Stop quarrelling; enough is enough.
48. **early bird** (one who gets up early in the morning, one who is ahead of time): My son always gets up early in the morning: he is an early bird.
49. **easy come, easy go** (easily gained, quickly spent): Within a short period, he spent lavishly all the money won by gambling: as it is said, easy come, easy go.

F

50. **fair weather friend** (A person friendly with another person only when the things are going well): Most of the people you are associating with are only fair weather friends.
51. **far and near** (from distant and near places): People came from far and near to see the fair .
52. **far and wide** (over a large area): The police searched far and wide for the murderer but were unable to find him.
53. **few and far between** (very rare and unusual): We searched for a good school in that area but it was few and far between
54. **first and foremost** (most important, firstly): It is our first and foremost duty to serve the cause of our nation.
55. **fall flat** (fail to impress or influence): The speech fell flat on the audience.
56. **for good** (for ever): The Britishers left India for good.
57. **fall a prey to** (to fall a victim to someone): The innocent man fell a prey to the evil designs of the cheat.

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G

58. **get away with murder** (to do something wrong without being punished): You can't cheat me like that and get away with murder.
59. **get hold of** (grasp, hold in one's hand): Get hold of the string, otherwise you may fall.
60. **get rid of** (dispose of, especially when considered undesirable or worthless): We should get rid of all rubbish.
61. **get up** (to rise from the bed in the morning) - When do you get up?
62. **get the sack** (be dismissed from one's job): Many workers got the sack when the company ran into loss.
63. **gift of the gab** (ability to talk well): He has a gift of the gab and can hold his audience spell- bound.
64. **give up** (to stop doing or having something): She has given up the idea of becoming an actress.
65. **go down with** (become ill with): The children went down with measles one after the other.
66. **go ahead** (permission to do something): As soon as the ministry gave us the go-ahead signal, we launched the new project.
67. **go to any length** (do anything to achieve something): in order to safeguard the interest of the nation, I can go to any length.
68. **golden mean** (middle path, a balance between two extreme positions or ideas): You should not go to the extremes rather find a golden mean between the two.

H

69. **hall mark** (a symbol of improved quality): Clear and explicit expression is the hall mark of good writing.
70. **hands down** (to win easily): The opponents were weak, so the home side won the match hands down.
71. **hang on** (to continue trying to do something even though it is very difficult): Shoeb Akhtar was bowling with fire but the Indian openers hung on with sheer determination.
72. **hard and fast** (strict): No one is allowed to leave; it is a hard and fast rule of the hostel.
73. **have an eye for** (be interested in/ be a good judge of): You should go with Rakesh for purchasing; he has a good eye for bargain.

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74. **have no say** (not have any authorities in making a decision): The teachers have no say in deciding who should be the secretary of the institute.

I

75. **in a bad way** (very bad, very ill): My father is in a bad way; he may not survive.
76. **in a flash** (very quickly, immediately): He solved the problem of mathematics in a flash.
77. **in a nut shell** (very briefly): I have no time: tell me in a nut shell about the incident.
78. **indulge in** (to allow yourself to have or do something, which is often bad for you but which you like): They were indulged in espionage.
79. **interfere with** (to get in the way of something): Don't let anything interfere with your training.
80. **in the air** (being discussed or thought about): He was the first person to raise the voice of protest against the management although it was in the air at the time.
81. **in the dark** (not knowing what is going on): We are still in the dark about what is going on in the family of Mr Sharma.
82. **in the soup** (in trouble): I have not prepared seriously for the examination: I am really in the soup.
83. **in a fix** (in a state of indecision): I couldn't decide whether to leave or stay; I was in a fix.

J

84. **Jack of all trades** (person who knows many kinds of work but is not good at any of them): He is Jack of all trades but master of none.
85. **jail-bird** (a person who has spent a lot of time in prison): The judge didn't show any mercy to John because he was a notorious jail-bird.
86. **join forces** (join together/ become united): The two armies joined forces to fight with their common enemy.
87. **jokes apart/ aside** (speaking seriously): Jokes apart, we should do something to make the situation favourable.
88. **jump out of one's skin** (be suddenly very frightened): When I came to know about the attack of the enemy, I jumped out of my skin.

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89. **jump the gun** (to start running before the starter's gun has fired): Though he was a good runner, he was disqualified for jumping the gun three times.
90. **just about** (almost): I will accompany you as far as the market; I have just about finished my work.
91. **just now** (a few moments ago): The thief cant be far away; he was here just now.
92. **just the thing** (the exact thing requested/needed): This jacket is just the thing I need for winter.
93. **jump to conclusion** (to arrive at a decision/conclusion without having evidence): Don't jump to conclusions; wait till we discuss the issue in detail.

K

94. **keep an eye on** (watch/guard): Would you mind keeping an eye on my luggage for a few minutes?
95. **keep body and soul together** (stay alive): My income is just enough to keep my body and soul together.
96. **keep in mind** (remember someone/something): Keep in mind that your examination is at hand.
97. **keep in touch with** (to remain in contact): He promised to keep in touch with us while he was abroad.
98. **keep one's fingers crossed** (to hope for good luck): I am keeping my fingers crossed with a hope to get a job.
99. **keep the ball rolling** (continue something): We keep the ball rolling from one activity to another to avoid feeling bored.
100. **knock it off** (to stop doing something): Stop singing; knock it off, will you?
101. **know by sight** (to recognise someone from his physical appearance): I know the man by sight but I'm sorry I don't know his name
102. **know the ropes** (learn how something is done): In the beginning you may face difficulty, but you'll soon get to know the ropes.
103. **know something/ someone inside out** (know completely): I know this area inside out; I have lived here for ten years.

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L

104. **laughing stock** (something that is regarded as foolish and causes unkind laughter): He talked nonsense and made himself the laughing stock at the party.
105. **lay waste**(destroy, ruin): The invading army laid waste the crops in the country side.
106. **leap in the dark**(something one does without knowing it): My friend is willing to open a hotel, really it is a leap in the dark.
107. **lion's share** (largest share): The leader of the gang took the lion's share of the booty.
108. **look before you leap** (think about what will happen afterwards before you do something): Before taking any decision in this regards, it is very important for you to look before you leap.
109. **look down on/upon** (to have or show a low opinion, to consider someone socially inferior or unimportant): The rich always look down upon the poor.
110. **look after** (to take care of): The baby should be looked after properly.

M

111. **maiden speech** (first speech one makes in parliament, a debating society): The speaker was looking nervous as it was his maiden speech.
112. **make a mountain out of a mole-hill** (make something appear to be more important than it is) It is an easy task for you. Don't make mountain out of a mole-hill.
113. **make fun of** (laugh at; make jokes about): The students made fun of the salesman's dress.
114. **milk of human kindness** (good feeling towards others): She helps the poor; she is full of the milk of human kindness.
115. **mind one's own business** (not interfere in other people's concerns): One should not advise others frequently; one should mind one's own business.
116. **man of letters** (a literary genius whose books and articles are respected): He started his literary career at a very young age but is now an acknowledged man of letters.
117. **make one fire** (do courageous work, adventurous): I am amazed at your capacity for hard work and I wonder what makes you fire.
118. **make up for** (to repay or compensate for): You will have to make up for the loss you have caused.

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N

119. **narrow escape** (only just avoided danger): No sooner did we come out of the house than it collapsed; it was a narrow escape.
120. **neck to neck** (side by side, together): The two participants ran equally fast. They reached the finishing point neck to neck.
121. **nine day's wonder** (something which everybody talks about for a short time): The arrival of a new doctor in the village was a nine day's wonder.
122. **nip in the bud** (stop something before it develops): The government nipped the steps of the extremists in the bud.
123. **no doubt** (certainly): No doubt, he is the best doctor available in the town.
124. **no matter** (it makes no difference): No matter where the thief tries to hide, the police will find him out.
125. **no sweat** (there's no problem, it will be done easily): No sweat, I will do this work for you by tomorrow.
126. **null and void** (with reference to legal documents, no effective): since the cabinet didn't give approval, the new proposed law has become null and void.

O

127. **of late** (now-a-days): Of late, many girls have started dressing like boys.
128. **off and on** (not regularly, sometimes): He drops in off and on for a chat with me.
129. **off one's head** (crazy, insane): Anyone who thinks of such a nonsense plan must be off his mind.
130. **off the map** (difficult to get to, far from the main town): It is not easy to reach the village; it is right off the map.
131. **on board** (on plane, ship or train): The passengers were given warm welcome on board by the captain.
132. **on the eve of** (on the occasion of): All the guests arrived on the eve of his marriage.
133. **on that account** (because of that, for that reason): He is preparing for his examination; on that account, he will not go for a picnic.
134. **out of sight** (no longer visible): They watched the bus till it was out of sight.

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P

135. **pave the way** (make it easier for something to happen): The courage and dedication of the soldiers paved the way to success.
136. **pay attention to** (look and listen carefully): Please pay attention to the instructions of the group leader.
137. **played out** (finished, exhausted): By the time the runner reached the finishing point, he was completely played out.
138. **put one's foot down** (be firm/ to insist on something): The children wanted to see the late night programme on TV, but the mother put her foot down and asked them to go to bed.
139. **put on trial** (to lodge a legal case): Although John had not committed that crime, yet he was put on trial.
140. **pros and cons** (consider the points for and against): The manager assured him to take a decision only after weighing the pros and cons of the matter.
141. **put one on guard** (to alert someone): Seeing the dacoits, the watchman put the inmates of the house on guard.
142. **put up with** (to tolerate): I can't put up with this insult.

Q

143. **queer fish** (strange person): He would come with an umbrella in his hand even in winter; he is a queer fish.
144. **quite a few** (many): Quite a few students were absent in our class today.
145. **quite the thing** (fashionable, in fashion): Now-a-days to wear long hair is quite the thing.
146. **quick of understanding** (intelligent, a person of sharp wit): The student grasped the subject easily, he was quick of understanding.

R

147. **read between the lines** (to understand a meaning which is suggested but not openly stated): His speech seemed to be very simple on the surface but when you read between the lines you can find it was full of biting criticism.
148. **red letter day** (golden day/ important day): The 15th of August is known as a red letter day in the history of India.

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149. **red carpet welcome** (to give warm welcome): The President of India was given a red carpet welcome at the airport.
150. **rock bottom** (at the very lowest level): It is the right time to buy a car because the price has hit rock bottom now-a-days.
151. **run out of** (end/ consumed entirely): We ran out of petrol on our way to Agra.
152. **run into debt** (owe people money): Spend your money wisely; otherwise, you will soon run into debt.
153. **run of the mill** (ordinary): The film is not marvellous; it is a run of the mill one.
154. **run short of** (not having enough): Now-a-days, I am running short of money.
155. **rise to the occasion** (to show that one can deal with a difficult situation): The Indians rose to the occasion and fought the Britishers to the finish.
156. **run riot** (behave in a wild way): The police were called in as the crowd were running riot through the town.
157. **run for one's life** (run away as quickly as one can to save oneself): "Run for your life"! The guard shouted to the people to come out of the burning building.

S

158. **safe and sound** (safe, well): Everyone was happy to find the little boy safe and sound.
159. **face saving** (intended to save one's reputation): Finally, the company came to a face saving agreement with the workers.
160. **see through** (recognise the truth, false statement, deceiving persons): I can see through your tricks.
161. **set on** (to cause to attack or chase): The house-owner set the dog on the thief at midnight.
162. **shot in the dark** (wild guess, something done at random): I didn't know the correct answer, so I shot in the dark and to my surprise it was the correct answer.
163. **sick and tired of** (annoyed with something which happens frequently): I am sick and tired of the uninvited guests at the party.
164. **sleep a wink** (usually with negative: not): do not sleep even for a very short time): Because of the high sound of the loudspeaker, I couldn't sleep a wink throughout the night.

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165. **slip of the tongue** (something one says without meaning to): I beg apology as it is the slip of the tongue.
166. **sow the seed of** (do something which still have result): The revolts of 1857 sowed the seed of Indian independent movement.
167. **stab in the back** (betray, be disloyal to): Never trust your enemies, they will stab you in the back.

T

168. **take account of** (pay attention to): We must take account of the situation before arriving at any decision.
169. **take care** (be careful): Always take care when you are driving a car.
170. **take charge of** (be in control): Mr Nehra will take charge of the office tomorrow.
171. **take the floor** (speak to an audience): The old man took the floor and impressed the audience.
172. **take to one's heels** (run away): Seeing the police, the thief took to his heels.
173. **take up arm** (get ready to fight): The farmers took up the arms against the price-hike..
174. **taken aback** (surprised): I was taken aback when my bosom friend betrayed me.
175. **then and there** (immediately): He returned the borrowed amount then and there when asked.
176. **to and fro** (from one place to another and back again): As he was emotionally disturbed, he walked to and fro on the verandah.

U

177. **under a cloud** (suspected of having done something wrong): The Principal punished the student under a cloud but no one could prove anything against him.
178. **under one's belt** (as part of one's experience): The actor has already got three successful films under his belt.
179. **under cover** (hidden or disguised): The police came at the place of the occurrence under the cover of darkness.

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180. **up in arm** (showing one's anger/ making a lot of noise and fuss): The audience were up in arms when the show was cancelled.
181. **ups and downs** (period of good and bad luck): Everyone be ready to accept the ups and downs of life.
182. **under the sun** (on earth): Everything conditioned under the sun is the creation of God.

W

183. **wage war** (fight a war): The Indians waged the first war of Independence against the Britishers in 1857.
184. **walk on air** (be extremely happy): After his grand success at the examination, he was seen walking on the air.
185. **well to do** (rich): He comes from a well-to-do family.
186. **wide off the mark** (far from the centre of target): His argument sounds impressive, but is wide off the mark.
187. **with respect to** (in connection with): I would like to give an opinion with respect to this matter.
188. **with open arms** (in a very friendly way): They welcomed the guests with open arms.
189. **with one accord** (everyone together, without exception): The entire family stood up and faced the challenge with one accord.
190. **within reach** (not far, easy to achieve or reach): You can afford a car; it is within your reach.

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SYNTHESIS
OR
COMBINING SENTENCES

A. Look at the following sentences:

1. Patna is the capital of Bihar. It is an ancient city. It is situated on the bank of the Ganga.

2. Roop Singh was a guard. He dressed neatly. He looked different from other guards.

In example 1, there are three sentences with three finite verbs; they can be combined into one sentence like,

Patna, the capital of Bihar and situated on the bank of Ganga, is an ancient city.

Similarly, in example 2 there are three sentences with three finite verbs; they can again be combined into one sentence like,

Dressed neatly, Roop Singh, a guard, looked different from other guards.

Thus, the combined sentences become short, pointed and more effective with only one finite verb'is' and 'looked' respectively.

This way of combining senteces is called **Synthesis**. By Synthesis a number of simple sentences are combined to form new sentences - Simple, Compound and Complex.

(Synthesis is different from Analysis. Analysis means breaking up of sentences into simplest form.)

Synthesis (Combining Sentences)	**Analysis (Breaking up of Senteces)**
(a) Hurting his leg, he stopped walking.	(a) He hurt his leg. He stopped walking.
(b) He, as the President of the Owners' Association, takes it seriously.	(b) He is the Presidient of the Owners' Association. He takes it seriously.

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B. There are several ways of combining sentences. Again, the same sentences can be combined in more than one way. For example,

(a) I want to earn money. I work hard.

It can be combined like,

I work hard to earn money. Or,

I work hard so that I may earn money.

Another example,

(b) He was not present. I left a message for him.

It can be combined in different ways:

(i) As he was not present, I left a message for him.

(ii) Since/Because he was not present, I left a message for him.

(iii) In his absence, I left a message for him.

There are several ways of combining two or more simple sentences into one simple sentence.

(i) By using an Infinitive

(a) Sunil Gavaskar was happy. He scored his 29th century.
Sunil Gavaskar was happy **to score** his 29th century.

(b) I sat down. I wrote a letter.
I sat down **to write** a letter.

(c) Mr Kedia was arrogant. He did not understand Roop Singh's feelings.
Mr Kedia was too arrogant **to understand** Roop Singh's feelings.

(ii) By using a Noun or a Phrase in Apposition

(a) This is a book. It is very useful.
This is **a very useful book**.

(b) Rakesh is an author. He is Ranjan's father. He has written many novels.
Rakesh, **Rajan's father**, has written many novels.

(c) Nalanda is a renowned university town. It is the ancient seat of learning.
Nalanda, **the renowned university town**, is the ancient seat of learning.

(iii) By using a Participle

(a) Dasa felt tired. He sat down.
Feeling tired Dasa sat down.

(b) The cyclist saw the snake. He shouted loudly.
Seeing the snake the cyclist shouted loudly.

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(c) He felt afraid. He began to cry.
Feeling afraid he began to cry.

(iv) By using a Preposition with a Noun or Gerund

(a) Sunil Gavaskar played well. He had fever.
In spite of fever, Sunil Gavaskar played well.
(b) Shabbi wrote fine poetry. She was only 15.
In spite of being only 15, Shabbi wrote fine poetry.
(c) India won the match.We were delighted. We heard the news.
On hearing the news of India's win, we were delighted.

(v) By using the Nominative Absolute Construction

(a) The sun set. The farmer stopped working.
The sun **having set** the farmer stopped working.
(b) The sportsmen arrived. The event began.
The sportsmen **having arrived,** the event began.

(vi) By using an Adverb or an Adverbial Phrase

(a) He broke a cup. He was careless.
He **carelessly** broke a cup.
(b) It was midday. The sun did not rise.
The sun did not rise **by midday**.

Exercise - 1

Combine the following simple sentences into one simple sentence each:

1. Nalanda was an ancient town. It was famous for literature and religious studies.
2. There are safety rules. We must follow them.
3. 'Animals in Prison' is a well known extract from '**An Autobiography**'.
4. Her name is Sujata Bhatt. She is a good poet.
5. He stood first. He worked hard.
6. Dipu has a big family. He must provide for them.
7. The wind stopped. The ship moved on.
8. The power supply is irregular. That is usual.
9. He built a temple. It had many rooms. It had a large veranda. It was near the Ganga.
10. Punit lives in Bangalore. He is an engineer. He lives with his family.
11. We won the match. It was certain.
12. Kali is a devoted worker. There is no doubt about it.
13. The police arrived. The crowd dispersed.
14. Ismail is a genius. He is the son of a postman.
15. He studied English. He taught children.

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16. He has three daughters. He has to marry them.
17. He was unwell. He took leave of his work.
18. He won the game. He rejoiced.He wanted to educate his daughter.
19. He sent the m to Banasthali Vidyapeeth. He was not economically sound.
20. He is very week He cannot walk.

C. Combining Simple Sentences Into a Compound Sentence

Simple sentences may be combined into compound sentences by using co-ordinate conjunctions like **and, but, both, as well as, either, neither, therefore, not only ...but also** etc.

Example:

Madhu is poor. He is intelligent.

Here we have two separate simple sentences. They can be combined into one compound sentence by using '**but**':

Madhu is poor but intelligent.

Some more examples:

(a) Madhuri is beautiful. She is rich.
Madhuri is beautiful **and** rich.

(b) The pickpocket was arrested. His four companions,too, were arrested.
The pickpocket **as well as** his four companions was arrested.

(c) Gabbar is a murderer. He is an abductor.
Gabbar is **not only a murderer but also** an abductor.

(d) He was a criminal. He was sent to jail.
He was a criminal, **therefore** he was sent to jail.

(e) You may study Science. You may study Arts.
You may study **either** Science **or** Arts.

(f) You may stay. You may go away.
You may stay **or** go away.

(g) I don't know singing. I don't know dancing.
I know **neither** singing **nor** dancing.
or, I don't know singing **or** dancing.

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Exercise -2

Combine the following sets of sentences into one compound sentence each:

1. Dasa was a fool. He was lazy.
2. The Magadh Research Institute is young. It can be moulded to the need of the age.
3. Liberty is not a personal affair. It is a social contract.
4. I looked everywhere. There was no mouse.
5. Roop Singh's uniform was always ironed. His shoes were gleaming black.
6. Hurry up. You will be late.
7. Do not eat Gutkha. You will be punished.
8. He was all right. He was tired.
9. The sun rose. The fog disappeared. The boys came out to play.
10. I earned a lot. I saved nothing.
11. You can eat fish. You can eat mutton.
12. He can write English. He can speak English.
13. He was poor. He was happy.
14. John passed the test. Hanif also passed the test.
15. He is intelligent. He is confused.
16. He told lies. He was punished.
17. Roop Singh was honest. Kedia insulted him.
18. It is dark. I will carry a torch.
19. We must not walk in the middle of the road. It would be fatal.
20. Hurry up. You will miss the train.

D. Combining Simple Sentences into a Complex Sentence

Simple sentences may be combined into complex sentences by using **Relative Pronouns**, **Relative Adverbs** or **Sudordinating Conjunctions**. They include **who, whom, whose, which, what, that, as, when, where, how, why, because, since, before, after, if unless, until, as long as, so long as, although, though, as though, if, as if, lest, whether,** etc.

Example:

I know the girl. Her brother is a minister. .

Here we have two separate simple sentences. They can be combined into one complex sentence by using '**whose**':

*I know the girl **whose** brother is a minister.*

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Some more examples:

(i) By using a Noun Clause (by using **that, who, whom, whose, which, what, where, when, how, why, if, whether)**

a) Sachin will play to his potential. I know this.
I know **that** Sachin will play to his potential.

b) I do not know. Why is she weeping?
I don't know **why** she is weeping.

c) Can you tell me? Whose house is this?
Can you tell me **whose** house this is?

d) Nobody can believe. How unfortunate she is!
Nobody can believe **how** unfortunate she is.

e) Somebody knocked at the door. I do not know who.
I do not know **who** knocked at the door.

f) Tell me. Are you coming tomorrow?
Tell me **if/whether** you are coming tomorrow.

(ii) By using an Adjective Clause (by using **who, whom, whose, which, that, where, when, how, why**)

a) I know the man. He used to play for our district.
I know the man **who** used to play for our district.

b) The Director has arrived. You have invited him.
The Director **whom** you have invited has arrived.

c) Nalanda is in Bihar. It is the ancient seat of learning.
Nalanda **which** is the ancient seat of learning is in Bihar.

d) This is the house. My parents lived here.
This is the house **where** my parents lived.

e) I know the boy. His sister is a great singer.
I know the boy **whose** sister is a great singer.

(iii) By using an Adverb Clause (by using **if, unless, until, lest, when, before, after, as soon as, as long as, in case, provided, as, because, although, though, as if, as though**)

a) The teacher was angry. The boys were making a noise.
The teacher was angry **because** the boys were making a noise.

b) The doctor arrived. The patient had died.
When the doctor arrived, the patient had died.
Or, The patient had died **before** the doctor arrived.

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Or, The doctor arrived **after** the patient had died.

c) Sujit is tall. Amod is taller.
Amod is taller than Sujit.

d) Ashish is weak. He is laborious.
Although/ Though Ashish is weak, he is laborious.

Exercise - 3

Combine the following simple sentences into Simple, Compound or Complex Sentence each:

1. He was very old. He could not take part in the race.
2. Dhoni played a wonderful innings. He won the Asia Cup.
3. I missed the bus. I was late.
4. Ajeet has bought a flat. It is very expensive.
5. You can take tea. You can take coffee.
6. Do not waste time. Wash your hands. Begin your studies.
7. Where is the zoo? Can you tell me?
8. I got up early. I rushed to the airport to receive my parents.
9. I felt tired. I went to bed.
10. He is very tired. He cannot walk any further.
11. I went home. I talked to my parents.
12. Chabbi is beautiful. Mamta is equally beautiful.
13. Tell me. Is Nikhat sitting there?
14. Can you tell me? Whom does Safdar love?
15. She has got a job. I do not know how.

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ANALYSIS

Analysis is different from Synthesis. Analysis means breaking up of sentences into their simplest forms, i.e clauses. It also means specifying clauses and types (or kinds) of sentences.

Read the following sentences:

1. ***Ram went*** *to the forest.*
2. *My God!*
3. ***I stayed*** *there but my* ***brother came*** *back.*
4. ***He exclaimed*** *that* ***it was*** *a dreadful idea.*
5. ***Mohan was singing*** *and* ***Sita was dancing*** *when* ***I reached*** *home.*
6. *Run!*
7. *On Tuesday?*
8. *My goodness!*
9. *Next Month.*

You see that sentence 1 contains a 'subject' ('Ram') and only one **Finite Verb** ('went'). Hence, it consists of only one clause which can further be (divided into a **Subject** ('Ram') and a '**predicate**' ('went to the forest'). Such a sentence is called a **Simple Sentence**.)

A clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a predicate.

Sentence 2 cannot be divided into subject and predicate as it has no verb at all. Such a sentence is called a '**minor sentence**'. Sentences 6, 7, 8 and 9 are also minor sentences. These minor sentences have importance of their own. However, our immediate concern in this section is with '**well-formed**' sentences which consist of one clause or more than one clause depending on the number of finite verbs.

Sentence 3 has two subjects ('I' and 'my brother') and two finite verbs ('stayed' and 'came back'). Sentence 4 also has two finite verbs ('stayed' and

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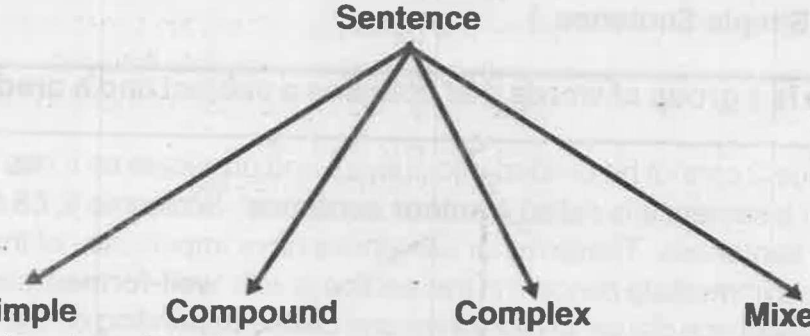
'came'); hence, it has two clauses and both of these clauses are independent. Such a sentence is called a **Compound Sentence.**

Sentence 4 has two subjects ('He' and 'it') and two finite verbs ('exclaimed' and 'was'). Hence, it has two clauses. The second clause 'it was a dreadful idea' depends on the first clause 'He exclaimed'. Such a sentence is called a **Complex Sentence.**

Sentence 5 has three subjects ('Mohan', 'Sita' and 'I') and three finite verbs ('was singing', 'was dancing' and 'reached'). It, therefore, has three clauses – two of these clauses ('Mohan was singing' 'and Sita was dancing') are independent clauses whereas the third ('when I reached home') is a dependent clause. Such a sentence is called a **Mixed** or **Compound- Complex Sentence.**

Thus, we can say that a sentence which has only one **Subject** and one **Predicate** is called a **Simple Sentence** or a Simple Sentence has a single main or **Independent Clause**. Similarly, a sentence having one **Independent Clause** and one or more **Dependent Clauses** is called a **Complex Sentence**. Again, a sentence consisting of two or more **Independent Clauses** joined by a **co-ordinating conjunction** is called a **Compound Sentence**. A **Mixed Sentence** is a sentence that contains two or more Independent Clauses (Principal and Coordinate clauses) and at least one Dependent (Subordinate) Clause.

Sentences, thus, can be divided into four categories on the basis of the clauses they have:



Simple: Consists of one Independent Clause known as Principal Clause. (See sentence 1) e.g., Ram helped me.

Compound: Independent Clause (Principal Clause) + one or more than one Independent Clauses (Co-ordinate Clause (s)) (See sentence 4)

Complex: One Independent Clause (Principal Clause) + one or more than one Dependent Clause (Subordinate Clause) (see sentence 3)

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Mixed: Two or more Independent Clauses (Principal Clause + Coordinate Clause) + one or more than one Dependent Clauses (Subordinate Clause) (See sentence 5)

You have already seen that a sentence, of whatever type it is, consists of clauses. You have also observed that a clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a predicate. Clauses are chiefly of two types: Independent Clause and Subordinate Clause.

1. **Independent Clause**: This type of clause can stand by itself as a sentence. It is also known as 'main clause'.

Look at this sentence:

The printed word *is really a soul-stirring instrument.*

Subject Predicate

This sentence is made of only one main clause and thus can be termed as a simple sentence.

2. Subordinate Clause: This type of clause cannot stand by itself as a complete or 'well-formed' sentence.

Look at this sentence:

His helplessness is a measure of the freedom *which the press enjoys.*

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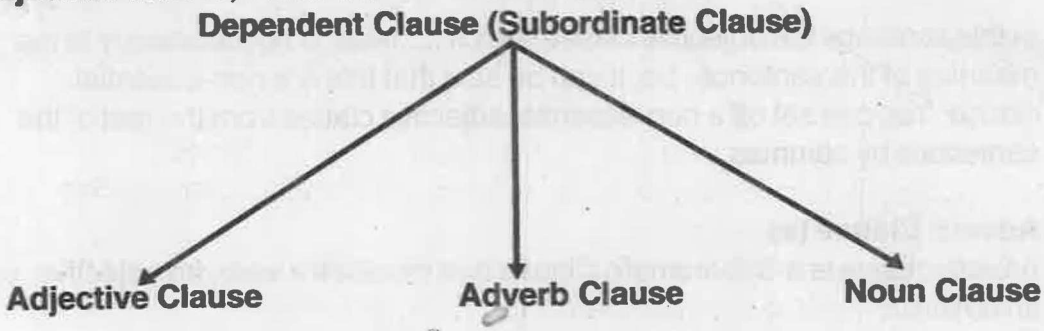
In this sentence there are two clauses (i.e. there are two subjects and two predicates) but one of them can't stand alone as a complete sentence, so it is also known as a Dependent Clause. For example, 'which the press enjoys' has a subject and a predicate but it does not express complete thought.

Subordinate Clauses can be put in three categories on the basis of their function: **Adjective Clause**, **Noun Clause** and **Adverb Clause**



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Adjective clauses:
An Adjective Clause modifies a noun or a pronoun.

Recently, I asked a friend ***who had just returned from a long walk in the woods*** *what she had observed.*

Note that the clause that starts with 'who' and ends in 'woods' is modifying 'friend' of the main clause of the given sentence. So it can be said that it is an adjective clause.

Most Adjective Clauses begin with a relative pronoun (who, whom, whose, that etc). The relative pronoun relates the adjective clause to the noun or pronoun it modifies. However, adverbs **where** and **when** may head an adjective clause; e.g.

Library is a place **where you can find the book of your interest.**

Essential (Adjective) Clause :
Look at this sentence:
The Hindu is the newspaper ***that I like most.***

In this sentence ***'that I like most'*** is an essential adjective clause because without it the sentence would seem incomplete. This type of adjective clause is needed to make the meaning of the sentence clear. Without it, the sentence would become meaningless. You do not separate essential clause from the rest of the sentence by commas.

Non-Essential (Adjective) clause:
Look at this sentence:
Some magazines, ***which I often read,*** *are interesting.*

In this sentence the adjective clause 'which .....read' is not necessary to the meaning of the sentence. So, it can be said that this is a non-essential clause. You can set off a non-essential adjective clause from the rest of the sentences by commas.

Adverb Clause (s)
Adverb clause is a Subordinate Clause that modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb.
You can visit my place ***whenever you have the leisure time.***

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An Adverb Clause always begins with a Subordinating Conjunction that shows the relationship between a Subordinate Clause and Independent or Main Clause.

Frequently used Subordinating Conjunctions

after	although	as	as soon as
as though	because	before	even if
even though	if	in order that	provided that
Since	so that	than	that
though	unless	until	when
whenever	where	wherever	while

Words that introduce Adverb Clauses:

A subordinate conjunction relates an adverb clause to the word it modifies. It establishes a specific relationship between the cases in the sentences.

Time: as, as soon as, after, before, since, until, when, whenever, while
Cause: because, since
Comparison: as, as much as, than
Condition: if, although, as long as, though, unless, provided that
Purpose: so that, in order that, that
Manner: as, as if, as though
Place: where, wherever

Adverb Clauses answer the question: Where? When? How? Why? To what extent? And what circumstances?

Ex:

1. *I want to follow my dreams* ***wherever they take me.*** (follow where?)
2. *When you visit Bihar,* ***stop in Gaya,*** *the town is famous for Bodh Gaya.* (stop where?)
3. ***Since I have a bad case of hay fever,*** *my boss has postponed an important meeting.* (postponed why?)
4. *The lethargic snake did not look* ***as if it were very dangerous.*** (did not look how?)
5. *R.D. Burman played music* ***much better than most professionals did during his time.*** (better to what extent?)
6. ***If the rain continues,*** *all trains will be cancelled.* (will be cancelled under what circumstances?)

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Exercise - 1

Look at the sentences and find out subordinate clause(s) and write its/their name (s):

1. They were loudly discussing the various measures they would take to protect themselves against reptiles in the future, when Dasa appeared before them carrying a water pot whose mouth was sealed with a slab of stone.
2. Jesse Owens, who won four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics, was scorned by Adolph Hitler because of his black skin.
3. The devotion given nationally to Gandhi and finally even internationally is well known, but I found the same homage paid to local persons who in their measure were also leaders because of their selflessness.
4. I had had better cells in other prisons, but in Dehra Dun I had one privilege which was very precious to me.
5. That night I dreamt that there is a school in Lankapuri where only Manno and I got to study.
6. Cairo, which is located in Egypt on the Nile Delta, is an old and intriguing city.
7. When the Pearl Buck's novel **The Good Earth** was published in 1932, no one suspected that it would gain worldwide popularity.
8. It was certainly not helped by the derisive comments passed earlier in the day by part of the crowd which had come to watch us practice.
9. Before she died, Pearl Buck had published over sixty books and had become the first woman to win the Nobel Prize for literature.
10. Stencils, which are used in many cultures, are an old craft.
11. Carpenters can tackle more difficult projects when they become more skilled with their tools.
12. He was one of the replacement guards that came to work in our apartment building at the end of November.
13. In afternoon I should take a long walk in the woods and intoxicate my eyes on the beauties of the world of nature.
14. I want to go to this museum so that I can see the works of colonial silversmiths.
15. On a sunny afternoon, when the inmates of the bungalow were at their siesta a cyclist rang his bell at the gate frantically and announced: 'A big cobra has got into your compound.'
16. I have full faith in my people that they will bring forth the energy requisite for the satisfactory performance of his dual task.
17. For once the Indians thanked their red-taped bureaucracy which was still working on the modalities of shifting the capital from Delhi to Bombay.
18. In Dehra Dun I saw a new animal, or rather an animal which was new to me.

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19. My daughter carries her camera wherever she goes.
20. If all future timepieces are digital, people may forget how to use traditional clocks, and grandfather clocks could become obsolete.

NOUN CLAUSES

Look at these sentences:

i. **That painting is time-consuming** is obvious.
ii. Scientist may have determined **where Noah's Ark landed**.
iii. An unsolved mystery is **where Atlantis was located**.
iv. The reporter offered scanty proof for **what he claimed in his article**.
v. The belief **that unicorns exist** amuses us today, but it was popular in medieval times.

The parts in bold letters are Noun Clauses. A Noun Clause is a Subordinate Clause that is used as a noun clause.
This type of clause can perform all the functions of a noun: subject, direct or indirect object, predicate nominative, object of a preposition, or appositive. In sentence no (i), the noun clause is functioning as the subject of the sentences. In (ii) it is direct object; In (iii) it is predicate nominative; In (iv) it is object of a preposition; and in (v) it is appositive.

Exercise - 2

Identify the Noun Clauses

1. What the Romans called Caledonia is known today as Scotland.
2. The magazine 'Frontline' is what you should read as an example of Indian journalism.
3. One difference between the bighorn and the other sheep is that the bighorn has hair instead of wool.
4. We did not understand what the leather maker did next.
5. Whoever suggested the class work on leather making had a good idea.

Classifying Sentences by Structure

Simple Sentence

Look at the sentences:

1. An old beggar cried for alms at the gate.
2. Collectors like old things.
3. Collectors like old things but value quality.

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4. Antique collectors may rehabilitate old items.
   Antique collectors may rehabilitate old items, such as dressers, pictures or jewellery.

Note that each sentence has only one clause. This only one clause, that is always an independent clause, establishes that the sentence is a simple sentence.

A simple sentence has one Independent Clause but no Subordinate Clauses. However, it may have any number of phrases. It may have a compound subject, a compound predicate, or both (as it is clear from the examples cited above).

Compound Sentence
Look at the sentence:
The books were antique but they looked brand new.

This sentence has two clauses and both clauses can stand as a single sentence independently.
A compound sentence consists of two or more Independent or Main Clauses that are joined the cordoning conjunctions: **and**, **but**, **nor**, **or**, **for**, or **yet**.
Note that independent clauses are

Analysis of sentences
Examples worked out

1. Everybody who knows her, accepts, when he studies her case, that she is innocent.
   a) Everybody accepts. – Principal Clause
   b) Who knows her. - Subordinate Adjective Clause, qualifying 'everybody' in (a)
   c) When he studies your case. - Subordinate Adverb Clause of Time, modifying 'accepts' in (a)
   d) That she is innocent. – Subordinate Noun Clause , Object of 'accepts' in (a)
   This is a Complex Sentence.
2. She went there, talked to him and returned home.
   a) She went there. – Principal Clause.
   b) (She) talked to him. – Co-ordinate to P.C.
   c) (She) returned home. - Co-ordinate to P.C.

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Connective: And
This is a compound sentence.

3. This is what she wanted to tell you, but you refused to listen to her.
   a) This is. - Principal Clause.
   b) What she wanted to tell you. - Subordinate Noun Clause , Complement of 'is' in (a)
   c) But you refused to listen to her. – Coordinate with (a)

This is a Compound- Complex (or Mixed) Sentence.

Exercise -3

Analyse the following sentences:

1. European civilization is, no doubt, suited for the Europeans but it will mean ruin for India if we endeavour to copy it.
2. It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of colour are concerned.
3. Nnaemeka read the letter again when he got home and couldn't help smiling to himself.
4. A little learning is a dangerous thing.
5. In the cosmopolitan atmosphere of the city it had always seemed to her something of a joke that a person's tribe could determine whom he married.
6. Neither Karim nor Rahim will help you.
7. Rajiv's thoughts went back to the bet that he had made five years ago.
8. I believe in the principle that fortune favours the brave.
9. They saw that kings and their sword were inferior to the sword of ethics, and they, therefore, held the sovereigns of the earth to be inferior to the Rishis and the Fakirs.
10. He tried his level best but he failed when the director asked him a controversial question.
11. Spare the rod, and spoil the child.
12. Pramod and Kavita ran ahead while Rajiv found a thicker shawl for himself.
13. A man must arrange his physical and cultural circumstances so that they do not hinder him in his service of humanity on which all his energies should be concentrated.
14. This building is in a dilapidated condition.
15. When the bell rang, the students came out of the class.
16. If I were a bird, I would fly.
17. He was asked to pay off the debts which his mother had taken.
18. Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.
19. The Principal liked your idea; so did I.
20. At mother's insistence, I had taken two days' leave from the office, and in the afternoon, I drove Nanukaka to the North Block.

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